DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE BLOGGERS ROUNDTABLE WITH LIEUTENANT COLONEL JOHN
VELLIQUETTE JR., U.S. ARMY, IRAQI BIOMETRICS MANAGER, COALITION POLICE
ASSISTANCE TRAINING TEAM MISSION, ADNAN PALACE, IRAQ, VIA TELECONFERENCE FROM
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        (Note: Please refer to www.dod.mil for more information.)

        CHARLES "JACK" HOLT (chief, New Media Operations, OASD PA): All right,
sir. I think we've got -- we can go ahead and get started. We'll -- if they
join us late, we'll just add them in and bring them up to speed as we go. But
if -- Colonel Velliquette, if you're ready, we are, sir.

        With us today for the Bloggers Roundtable: Lieutenant General --
Lieutenant Colonel John Velliquette. He's the biometrics manager for the
Civilian Police Assistance Training Team Mission in Afghanistan -- Afghanistan -
- in Iraq. Sorry. Got a lot of things going on this morning. Sorry about
that.

        Colonel, the floor is yours. If you have an opening statement for us,
we're ready.   LT. COL. VELLIQUETTE: Good morning. My name's Lieutenant
Colonel John Velliquette, and I am the Iraqi AFIS program manager here in Iraq.
For -- our name, CPATT, has changed from CPATT to director of Interior Affairs,
and I specifically work with the minister -- Interior Transition Team, advising
the minister of Interior on biometric affairs, as well as identification cards.

        I've been in country approximately 12 months -- in fact, getting ready
to leave tomorrow. I'm a U.S. Army Reservist, about 23 years of service. In my
civilian life, I'm a Seattle police officer.

        And during the past year I've learned a lot about biometrics, and I've
really enjoyed this opportunity to work with the Iraqis.

        I'll just give a little bit of background on the Iraqi biometric
systems. The Iraqi AFIS system was procured in 2005, and the minister of
Interior currently oversees the system. It's a Motorola AFIS system, which is
supervised by U.S. government contractors.

        Currently in the system we have about 848,000 biometric records.

        Our main contributors are first the MOI; we have 12,000 criminal records
in from the MOI, electronic fingerprint records, 375,000 civil fingerprint
records, 111,000 fingerprint records from the minister of Defense, and
approximately 21,000 fingerprint records from the minister of Justice.

We also have manually entered 10-print records; 19,000 civil records have been entered, and 24,000 criminal records. And Iraqis have manually entered -- in fact Iraqis are doing all the biometric selection and entry into the system.

Also, in the Iraqi AFIS are about 280,000 Saddam-era criminal records. And to date, we have made approximately 13,600 AFIS 10-print identifications. And recently we expanded the capability to do latent identifications. In the last six months or so, we've made 15 latent fingerprint identifications.

The system -- the Iraqi AFIS program is very successful. The Iraqis are embracing it and moving it beyond its initial capability of just being a civil verification system. They're starting to collect latents at crime scenes and making latent matches. In fact, this last two weeks, they made a latent match at a crime scene involving their minister of defense -- (audio break) -- not known whether or not he was a suspect in the crime, but the fact is, is that they collected a latent print and actually a made a successful match, which is quite an accomplishment for them.

They're also using identification for the dead bodies that are found around Iraq, making matches as well as recently -- in the last six months -- we fielded five metric (selection?) kits at each of the Iraqi ports of entry on the western border and also at Baghdad International Airport, Basra International Airport, and three of the port entries on the Iranian border, with more to be fielded in the future. (Audio break.)

That concludes my opening statement.

Do you have any questions?

MR. HOLT: Okay. Yes, sir, we do.

Bruce, you were first on line. Why don't you get us started here.

Q   Colonel Velliquette, I have a -- I hope you don't mind a personal question, but I served with a Chief Warrant Velliquette in Korea. Any relation?

LT. COL. VELLIQUETTE: That's my father.

Q   I'll be darned. Hey, he was a great soldier, and he saved my butt many times, so. I wanted to --

LT. COL. VELLIQUETTE: I'll tell him you said hello. (Laughter.)

Q   Well, do, please. Good man.

I wanted to ask you about -- I wanted to ask you about security of all this information. How do you secure all this? And I guess, what are the -- how do you process a request or how is a request for its use processed?

LT. COL. VELLIQUETTE: Okay. You're talking about the biometric database?

Q   That's correct.

LT. COL. VELLIQUETTE: The Automated Fingerprint Identification System has fingerprints in it. Even though we collect -- (inaudible) -- print records,

front and side pictures of individuals, as well as iris scans and voice print, only the fingerprints are stored in the Iraqi AFIS. Information that's stored in Iraqi AFIS is electronic fingerprint records, so that's the only information.

Each electronic fingerprint record is identified by a unique number, date/time group that it was collected, which biometric selection kit was used. And so each individual is assigned a unique number. When identification is made, it's just made from unique number to unique number and given a score and then visually verified by a (fingerprint ?) examiner -- Iraqi (fingerprint ?) examiner, to make a match. Then the information's married up with another database that has the biographical information of that individual, including what department they work for, whether they're MOI, MOD or Ministry of Justice. And that information is married together.

Currently the Iraqis have access to the database in the Iraqi AFIS. The contractors still control the other database with the biographical information.

Q   So, really the contractors are the ones that decide on access?

LT. COL. VELLIQUETTE: Yes.

MR. HOLT: Okay. And Doug?

Q   Well, sir, if I was getting out of here tomorrow, I don't believe I'd be talking on the phone right now.

I'd be -- (inaudible). You're a good man, sir. (Laughter.)

LT. COL. VELLIQUETTE: (Chuckles.) Thank you.

Q   I've got a couple questions. Can you tell me what contractors you have working for you in your operation, sir?

LT. COL. VELLIQUETTE: The contractors that work with the Iraqi AFIS system is Ideal Innovations, Incorporated.

Q   Okay. And let's see, the next question -- the Iraqi identification card, called a jinsiya, are the Iraqis putting any kind of fingerprint data on those now?

LT. COL. VELLIQUETTE: No. The jinsiya card is a two-sided card that's basically -- I've seen it either handwritten or typewritten depending on what district they're obtained. It's laminated paper, both sides, with a hologram. It's their national -- it's their form of a national ID card currently, and there's no biometric information on that card.

Q   Are there any plans to put any biometric information on those cards?

LT. COL. VELIQUETTE: Not to my knowledge on that card. However, during the past year, there were efforts to engage the government of Iraq on a national ID card that would have a biometric capability, and that program was not successful yet to date.

Q   Okay. PM Biometrics at Camp Slayer. Do you guys have anything to do with those people?

LT. COL. VELIQUETTE: PM Biometrics at Camp Slayer. No. They oversee biometrics on the coalition effort. I oversee biometrics -- trying to build Iraqi capability with their biometric effort.

Q   Well, sir, congratulations on a successful tour. I'm pretty sure you'll be glad to be getting home.

LT. COL. VELIQUETTE: I sure am. Thanks.

MR. HOLT: All right, any other questions? I know we had several folks that were scheduled to be here that didn't -- weren't able to dial in for some reason. So if there's any other follow-up questions -- and if not -- Q Hey, Jack? Just one thing again. It's personal, but I'd ask Colonel Veliquette if possible to have his dad get hold of me at www.QandO.net. It has my e-mail address. I'd love to talk to him.

LT. COL. VELIQUETTE: I'll pass it on.

Q   Thank you.

MR. HOLT: All right, sir. Well, Colonel Veliquette, thank you very much for joining us today. And congratulations on a successful tour; and have a safe trip home.

LT. COL. VELIQUETTE: Thank you.

MR. HOLT: Thank you, sir.

LT. COL. VELIQUETTE: Thank you.

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